

Lexington, with another 300 persons building engines for Alberta at MTU in Graniteville of Aiken County.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Happy 40th birthday today, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson.

#### THE OBAMACARE TRAIN WRECK

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, building a stronger economy for all Americans is our top priority here in the House. That's why we're working to simplify the Tax Code, expand energy production, and hold the administration accountable for abuses at agencies like the IRS. It's why, while Senate Democrats have done nothing, the House has passed a bipartisan plan to make college more affordable. And it's why we'll vote tomorrow to make sure that families and individuals get the same break from ObamaCare that the President wants for big businesses.

Over the weekend, the Democratic leader in the Senate said the President's health care law "has been wonderful" for our country. Are you kidding me? If ObamaCare is so wonderful, why are health care prices exploding? Why are millions of Americans getting kicked out of their plans? Why are so many workers losing their jobs or getting their hours cut?

The law isn't wonderful. It's a train wreck. You know it, I know it, and the American people know it. Even the President knows it. That's why he proposed delaying his mandate on employers.

But it's unfair to protect big businesses without giving the same relief to American families and small businesses. The bills by Congressman TIM GRIFFIN and TODD YOUNG will address this problem by delaying both the employer mandate and the individual mandate. I hope Democrats and Republicans alike will vote to do what's fair and protect all Americans from this disastrous law.

#### OBAMACARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, employers need more than a 1-year delay of ObamaCare's economic train wreck. The President's flawed legislation must be repealed in its entirety.

ObamaCare is already increasing health care costs, depressing hiring, and destroying full-time work. Waiting a year to implement some of its confusing, wrongheaded policies will not stop the damage or provide job creators with the certainty they need to figure out whether they can afford to keep their employees. That will come only

when ObamaCare is replaced by competitive, patient-centered health care reforms.

The American people and the American economy deserve better than excuses for unworkable laws. They deserve health care policies that are transparent, responsive, and focused on them. This week, House Republicans will take action to protect every American—individuals, families, and those who manage or work with businesses—from the President's costly broken law. If the employer mandate is being delayed, so should the individual mandate. It's basic fairness. It's fairness for all.

#### WEST, TEXAS

(Mr. FLORES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 3-month anniversary of the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas. This catastrophic event injured hundreds, took 15 lives, and cost tens of millions of dollars in damage. Since that tragic day, the State of Texas and the entire community of West have been working tirelessly to rebuild and to recover.

FEMA originally denied Texas Governor Rick Perry's request for a major disaster declaration. Since then, the Governor has filed an appeal for the President to reconsider this decision. I am pleased to be joined by a substantial bipartisan majority of the Texas congressional delegation as we urge the President to support this appeal on behalf of the citizens of West and McLennan County.

It is our hope that the President honors the commitment he made on April 25—to help the citizens of West recover, rebuild, and reclaim their community. We must help ease the burdens this community continues to face through the recovery process.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans keep the community of West in their prayers. God bless America.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE MANDATE DELAYS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, some of the Affordable Care Act's oldest and strongest supporters are now coming out against the bill. Yesterday, the three largest unions in the country wrote a letter to Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID and said that the President's health care takeover would "destroy the foundation of the 40-hour workweek that is the backbone of the American middle class." Their concern—my concern—is that the employer mandate will force small businesses to move their employees to part time in an effort to avoid additional expenses.

While I wish they had realized this before spending so much time and so much money on getting the law passed, at this point I couldn't agree with them more.

This week, it is very important that we pass the bills to delay the individual mandate and delay the employer mandate for a year. This will give us time to consider how to keep the Affordable Care Act from destroying our economy.

To quote the union's letter:

Time is running out. We have a problem. You need to fix it. The unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act are severe.

Further quoting:

We can no longer stand silent in the face of the elements of the Affordable Care Act that will destroy the very health care and well-being of millions of hardworking Americans.

By passing these two bills this week, we will take an important step in minimizing the damage from the Affordable Care Act.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

JULY 16, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 2013 at 1:25 p.m.:

Appointments:

World War I Centennial Commission

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, July 15, 2013.*

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, U.S. Capitol,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 13101 of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act (P.L. 111-5), I hereby reappoint Mr. Paul Egerman of Weston, Massachusetts to the HIT Policy Committee for a term of three years.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.